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December 16, 2004

Examiner John W. Hayes  
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office  
Crystal Park Five, 7th Floor, GAU 3621  
Arlington, VA 22202

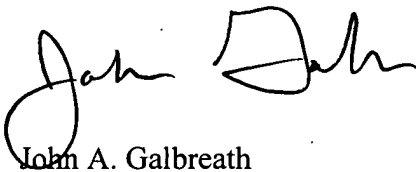
Re: Appl. # 09/625,017

Dear John:

I want to thank you for taking the time to talk with me yesterday on the subject application. I'm glad we were able to reach agreement that the claims now define patentably over the prior art. It's been a long road to allowance on this one, but as you pointed out, a thorough examination makes for a stronger patent in the long run.

I faxed in a formal amendment today, containing the points from our discussion. I wish you and your family best wishes for the holidays.

Sincerely,



John A. Galbreath

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